



TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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CHAIR:

HON. NATHAN L. HECHT
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

David Slayton

VICE CHAIR:

HON. SHARON KELLER
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

**September 14, 2018
10:00 AM**

**Tom C. Clark Building
(1st Floor Conference Room)
205 W. 14th Street
Austin, Texas**

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

On September 14, 2018, Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht called the meeting¹ of the [Texas Judicial Council](#) ("Council") to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room of the Tom C. Clark Building in Austin, Texas.

The following members of the Council were present:

*Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Hon. Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Mr. Carlos Z. Amaral, Information Services Group, Inc., Plano
Hon. Gary Bellair, Presiding Judge, Ransom Canyon Municipal Court
Hon. Bill Boyce, Justice, 14th Court of Appeals, Houston
Hon. Kelly Moore, Judge, 121st Judicial District, Terry & Yoakum
Hon. Valencia Nash, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Place 2, Dallas County
Hon. Sherry Radack, Chief Justice, 1st Court of Appeals, Houston
Mr. Kenneth S. Saks, Oliva Saks Garcia & Curiel, LLP, San Antonio
Hon. Polly Spencer, Judge (Ret.), Probate Court #1, Bexar County
Hon. Edward J. Spillane, III, Presiding Judge, City of College Station
Hon. Vivian Torres, Medina County Court at Law, Hondo
Mr. Evan Young, Baker Botts, Austin
Hon. Judith Zaffirini, Senator, Laredo*

Members attending by phone were Ms. Ashley Johnson, and Representative John Smithee.

¹ The meeting may be viewed on the State Bar of Texas website <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/TSCSearch2.asp>

Members not in attendance were Senator Brandon Creighton, Judge Bill Gravell, Jr., Ms. Allyson Ho, Judge Scott Jenkins, and Representative Andrew Murr.

MINUTES

The June 29, 2018, meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

[Texas Indigent Defense Commission](#)

Presiding Judge Keller gave the [report](#) for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

Resolutions

Mr. David Slayton, OCA Administrative Director, reviewed each of the following [proposed resolutions](#).

- Data Committee Recommendations
- Improving the Judiciary's Response to Disasters (from the Public Trust & Confidence Committee)
- Enhancing Court Security (from the Public Trust & Confidence Committee)
- Improving Transparency from the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (from the Public Trust & Confidence Committee)
- Guardianship, Mental Health, & Intellectual Disabilities Committee Recommendations on Guardianship
- Supporting Specialty Courts (from the Criminal Justice Committee)
- Combatting Opioid Abuse (from the Criminal Justice Committee)
- Criminal Justice Committee Recommendations on Bail
- Supporting Reforms Impacting Youth in State Custody (from the Juvenile Justice Committee)
- Addressing the Needs of Dually-Involved Youth (from the Juvenile Justice Committee)
- Judicial Compensation Commission Recommendations (from the Civil Justice Committee)
- Supporting Funding for Civil Legal Aid in Texas (from the Civil Justice Committee)

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion. Senator Zaffirini moved to adopt the resolutions as discussed. Second from Mr. Saks. Motion adopted.

Mr. Slayton reviewed each of the following proposed resolutions.

- Ensuring Adequate Court Funding
- In Support of Appropriating All Funds Collected for Improving Indigent Defense

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion. Judge Bellair moved to adopt the resolutions as discussed. Second from Judge Spencer. Motion adopted.

Justice Boyce reviewed the Guardianship, Mental Health, & Intellectual Disabilities Committee Recommendations on Mental Health resolution.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion. Judge Spencer moved to adopt the resolution as discussed. Second from Mr. Saks. Motion adopted.

Mr. Slayton reviewed the proposed resolution for the Civil Justice Committee recommendations.

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion. Judge Bellair moved to adopt the resolution as discussed. Second from Mr. Amaral. Motion adopted.

Mr. Slayton reviewed the proposed resolution for Addressing the Needs of Youth in Class C Misdemeanor Matters (from the Juvenile Justice Committee).

Chief Justice Hecht called for discussion. Judge Nash moved to adopt the resolution as discussed. Second from Judge Spillane. Motion adopted.

Results of Public Trust & Confidence Poll

Megan LaVoie, OCA Director Public Affairs/Special Counsel, reviewed the results of the Public Trust & Confidence Poll conducted as part of the Public Trust & Confidence Committee work. Mr. Slayton added that the National Center for State Courts has invited Texas to participate in a project to follow up in-depth on the more significant findings with use of focus groups in place of polling.

Update on Legislatively-mandated Studies

Scott Griffith, OCA Director Research and Court Services updated the Council on each of the following legislatively-mandated studies, reviewing the study focus and process, and preliminary observations of each.

- HB 1204 (White/West) - Study to examine the use of the terms “juvenile,” “child,” and “minor” throughout criminal justice and juvenile justice statutes
- SB 47 (Zaffirini/Wu) - Study on how records regarding fine-only misdemeanors, other traffic offenses, are held in different Texas counties
- SB 1326 (Zaffirini/Price) - Study regarding outcomes of participants in specialty courts who are persons with mental illness

Update on Guardianship Registration and Training

Jeff Rinard, OCA Certification Division Director, updated the Council on the progress of the Guardianship Compliance Project before providing an update on guardianship registration, guardianship program registration, and guardianship training.

After Mr. Rinard’s presentation, Chief Justice Hecht promoted the Class in the Courtroom project which is now available on the OCA website at classinthecourtroom.com.

He announced the Judicial Commission on Mental Health will host a summit in Houston on October 23.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING

Chief Justice Hecht noted that the next meeting of the Council will be February 1, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Nathan L. Hecht
Chair